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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,245	07/31/2001	Frederik Ekkel	US018117	4043

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EXAMINER

AU, GARY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2681

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/920,245	Applicant(s) EKKEL, FREDERIK	
	Examiner Gary Au	Art Unit 2681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/2/2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,587,479 Bianchi et al. (Bianchi).

Considering claim 1, Bianchi teaches an apparatus comprising a gateway for use between a home network and an external data network (cable access point 14-1 – figure 2, col. 4 lines 20-38), said apparatus comprising: an access point device for the home network (access point 34-1 – figure 2, col. 4 lines 47-54); wherein the access point device comprises: a housing (figure 2, col. 5 lines 6-20, where Bianchi discloses off-the-shelf items that have to have a housing); communication means for wireless data communication in the home network (col. 5 lines 6-20); and interface means for user-interface related to said apparatus, said interface means and said communication means being located within said housing (figure 7 – col. 7 lines 13-19).

Considering claim 8, Bianchi teaches a device (cable access point 14-1 – figure 2, col. 4 lines 20-38) configured as an access point (access point 34-1 – figure 2, col. 4 lines 47-54) for use with an apparatus that comprises a gateway for being used between a home network and an external data network, the device comprising: communication means for wireless data communication in the home network (col. 5 lines 6-20); and interface means for a user-interface related to said apparatus, said interface means and said communication means being located within said housing (figure 7 – col. 7 lines 13-19).

Considering claims 2 and 9, Bianchi teaches the access point device is connected to the apparatus via a cable (figure 2).

Considering claim 17, Bianchi teaches an access point device (access point 34-1 – figure 2, col. 4 lines 47-54) comprising: a housing (figure 2, col. 5 lines 6-20); a first port configured to provide wireless communication among a plurality of appliances of a local network (transport medium 15 – figure 1, col. 4 lines 20-28); a second port configured to provide an interface to at least one of said plurality of appliances, said housing including said first port and said second port (figure 7, col. 7 lines 13-19).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,587,479 Bianchi et al. (Bianchi) as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,622,304 (Carhart).

As to claims 3 and 10, Bianchi teaches the apparatus of claims 1 and 8, but fails to teach that the access point device comprises an IR receiver.

In an analogous art, Carhart teaches an access point device (22 and 27 – figure 2, col. 14 lines 20-54 and col. 8 lines 13-22) comprises an IR receiver (see infrared receiver in figure 10). It is convenient to have IR receiver for receiving user-inputs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include an IR receiver, as taught by Carhart, for the advantage of receiving user-inputs.

As to claims 5 and 12, Bianchi teaches the apparatus of claims 1 and 8, but fails to teach that the access point device comprises a camera.

In an analogous art, Carhart teaches an access point device comprises a camera (video camera 22, col. 8 lines 13-22). It is convenient to have a video camera for recording pictures or video.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include a camera, as taught by Carhart, for the advantage of recording pictures or video.

As to claims 6 and 13, Bianchi teaches the apparatus of claims 1 and 8, but fails to teach that the access point device comprises a microphone.

In an analogous art, Carhart teaches an access point device comprises a microphone (audio microphone, col. 8 lines 13-22). It is convenient to have a microphone for recording voice.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include a microphone, as taught by Carhart, for the advantage of recording voice.

As to claim 18, Bianchi teaches the access point device of claim 17, but fails to teach at least one of said plurality of appliances include a set-top box connectable to a monitor, said second port being connectable to said set-top box through a cable having a length configured to allow placement of said access point device substantially near said monitor.

In an analogous art, Carhart teaches at least one of said plurality of appliances includes a set-top box connectable to a monitor (col. 7 lines 53-67), said second port being connectable to said set-top box through a cable having a length configured to allow placement of said access point device substantially near said monitor (col. 7 lines 53-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include at least one of said plurality of appliances include a set-top box connectable to a monitor, said second port being connectable to said set-top box through a cable having a length configured to allow placement of said access point device substantially near said monitor, as taught by Carhart, for the advantage of viewing the information on a monitor.

As to claim 19, Bianchi teaches the access point device of claim 17, but fails to teach a camera configured to capture images, and provide said image to at least one of a monitor of said local network and an external network.

In an analogous art, Carhart teaches a camera configured to capture images (video camera 22, col. 8 lines 13-22), and provide said image to at least one of a monitor of said local network and an external network (col. 8 lines 13-55). It is convenient to provide image for further processing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include a camera configured to capture images, and provide said image to at least one of a monitor of said local

Art Unit: 2681

network and an external network, as taught by Carhart, for the advantage of further processing.

6. Claims 4 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,587,479 Bianchi et al. (Bianchi) as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,481,013 Dinwiddie et al. (Dinwiddie).

As to claims 4 and 11, Bianchi teaches the apparatus of claims 1 and 8, but fails to teach that the access point device comprises a visual status indicator.

In an analogous art, Dinwiddie teaches an access point device comprises a visual status indicator (LED 186 – figure 8 and 9, col. 13 line 63 – col. 14 line 17). The light emitting diode indicates when the infrared signals are being detected.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include a visual status indicator, as taught by Dinwiddie, for the advantage of indicating when infra-red signals are being detected in a consumer electronic apparatus.

7. Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,587,479 Bianchi et al. (Bianchi) as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,567,984 (Allport).

As to claims 7 and 14, Bianchi teaches the apparatus of claims 1 and 8, but fails to teach that the access point device comprises a FLASH memory card slot.

In an analogous art, Allport teaches a system that reads multiple data streams with a Flash memory ROM (340 – figure 4, col. 15 lines 37-47). The FLASH memory card stores downloaded information such as TV schedules, CD track data, and pre-loaded infrared command libraries.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include a FLASH memory card slot, as taught by Allport, for the advantage of storing downloaded information.

8. Claims 15, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,587,479 Bianchi et al. (Bianchi) as applied to claims 1, 8 and 17 above, and further in view of US Patent Application No. 2002/0104095 Nguyen et al. (Nguyen).

As to claims 15, 16 and 20, Bianchi teaches the apparatus of claims 1, 8 and 17, but fails to teach a lamp configured to indicate that an email message is waiting.

In an analogous art, Nguyen teaches a lamp configured to indicate that an email message is waiting (figure 3, [0039]). It is convenient to provide a lamp to notify the user an email message is waiting.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bianchi's system to include a lamp configured to indicate that an email message is waiting, as taught by Nguyen, for the advantage of notifying the user.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary Au whose telephone number is (571) 272-2822. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-5pm Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 03-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2681

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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